

Ellis and Frank Jenks. To make things easier for you, none of these players is either the murderer or the lady in the morgue.

"The Lady in the Morgue." Universal. Directed by Otis Garrett. Starring Preston Foster. Already released.

Plagiarism Apart, "I See Ice" Is Good

Formby's New Film

WELL, really, Mr. Formby! One hardly expected a reputable artist like you to pinch a fellow-comedian's gags.

More times than I cared to count in "I See Ice," George Formby uses Sandy Powell's famous line (it is almost his trade-remark): "Turned out nice again!"

Yet who am I to cast the first stone, having just walked off in this issue with a whole review from C. A. Lejeune!

Formby seems more resourceful in exploiting a familiar situation than in thinking up new ones; but plagiarism apart, "I See Ice," is productive of much of that variety of mirth somewhat indelicately known as the belly laugh. Thus we see him embarrassed by the lack of restraint commonly associated with very young babies; further embarrassed by the need to seek refuge in a ladies' cloak-room. But even more embarrassed is the gentleman to whom Formby ladies out castor oil under the impression that it is cough medicine!

Funny Face

CHEERFUL vulgarity of this type is not, however, the only source of amusement. The mere sight of Formby's inane face with the piano-keyboard teeth was apparently enough to keep the person next to me at the preview gurgling with mirth, when he wasn't actually bellowing over the comedian's antics during an ice-baller and an ice-hockey match. This enthusiastic young spectator was not, let me hasten to point out, a case-hardened previewer, but his appreciation was probably typical of what one may expect from the average public audience that sees "I See Ice."

All Formby's pictures are designed to make him out to be a dolt from the provinces who is the constant butt of misfortune till the last few scenes, when he emerges triumphant. This time he is on top of his form as an ambitious Press photographer who goes to the big city and falls heavily for a pretty skating champion (Kay Walshe).

Miss Walshe is a better-than-average British musical-comedy heroine; and Cyril Ritchard (plus a moustache), Garry Marsh, and Betty Stockfield make up a better-than-average British supporting cast. Greater imagination in the use of the camera and the editor's scissors would have improved the whole picture—and particularly the presentation of Formby's ukulele-accompanied songs—but on the whole "I See Ice" does the job it sets out to do very entertainingly indeed.

["I See Ice," A.T.P., directed by Anthony Kimmins, starring George Formby. Just released.]

The intimate romance of a modern Romeo, and the one girl who taught him the real reason of love . . . gay as Paris in Spring . . . delightful as a waltz . . . sparkling with humour and glorious romance . . . a picture with snappy gaiety only possible with two great stars guided by the famous Ernst Lubitsch.

Gayest Comedy!

Gary COOPER

Claudette COLBERT

in

BLUEBEARD'S

8th

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